

# OWLKILL ROD & GUN CLUB

FEBRUARY 2015



*President: Lance Allen Wang*

*Vice Pres.: John D'Allaird*

*Board of Directors: Mark Mahoney (Chairman), Bill Zeppetelli, Tim Barry, Bret Seiler*

*Treas.: Randy Burgoyne*

*Secretary: Tom Duclos*

**\* [www.owlkill.org](http://www.owlkill.org) \*\*\* OWLKILL ONLINE IS NOW LIVE!!! \*\*\* [www.owlkill.org](http://www.owlkill.org) \***

**Monthly Meeting:** The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Owlkill Rod & Gun Club will be held on Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**President's Comments:** This is going to be a very important meeting – February is our Annual Meeting, where we address some of the important housekeeping issues necessary to keep the club going (and growing). This year, we will be voting on the new Constitution, which is posted on our website, voting to fill positions either vacant, or to be vacated by term limits, and also vote on a new budget. While we can do a lot of this without involved membership – why would we want to? Come to the meeting. Vote. Find out what's going on. Become part of what's going on.

## **THE OWLKILL LOTTERY**

**We are going to build on the success of our lottery – and hold it in the Spring this time. The month of May will be prize-a-day drawings – and yes, we're changing up the roster of prizes. Different gift certificates, different firearms, different swag. Buy tickets. Sell tickets. You can even pre-purchase them with your membership renewal. Support your club!!!!**

## **ELECTIONS**

As mentioned previously, we will be having elections at our next meeting. I've come to the end of my two terms as President, certainly four years that I'm proud of, not least because of all of the hard work of our officers and Board. I think the Club is in a better place now, and poised for a great 2015. Our Vice President, John D'Allaird, is on the slate to become President, and I couldn't imagine a better candidate. In a club full of dedicated and creative people, there is certainly none more dedicated and creative than John. It's made my job easier knowing that John has been my steady wingman for four years, and he's an obvious choice to step in. Bret Seiler, who joined our Board a year ago when it was revitalized, a fine shooter with a good head on his shoulders will make a great wingman for John if elected Vice President. In addition, we will need to fill at least two Board slots and I know we have a couple of folks willing to step up into these roles.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

We have new membership application and renewal forms. Make sure you use the new forms! And make sure you include signed safety rules with the forms! You are required to recertify your understanding of these rules annually. Be safe. Protect yourself. Protect the Club. Everybody wins....

## **TRIVIA**

Trivia question from last month.

The US Army used the M60 medium machine gun for a number of years, 1957-1995. Often called the “pig” because it really was big, bulky, and generally a “pig” to have to hump through the woods (never mind the ammo belts, spare barrel, bipod or tripod, ugh....). The M60 was based on a weapon which got a great deal of use during World War II. What was the weapon, who used it, and what was one of the trademark signs that it was being used?



The MG42 was a German machine gun which had a trademark sound of ripping fabric because of its superior cyclic rate. Often called “Hitler’s zipper” or “Hitler’s buzzsaw,” the MG42 was a very advanced design for the period, and would have an extended service life after World War II, as the 1970s photo of the Portugese paratrooper on the left shows. In addition, the design of the MG42 would be incorporated into the American M60 machine gun until the 1990s, when it was replaced by the M240, a Belgian-designed (Fabrique Nationale) machine gun based somewhat loosely on..... the MG42.

Next month’s question: After American soldiers entered into combat during World War I, the war which brought us the flamethrower, poison gas, and aerial bombing of populations, German diplomats lodged a protest with the American government due to use of a weapon which caused “excessive injury” to its targets, and that the Germans would execute any American caught with this weapon. What was the weapon?

**SUPPORT OUR EFFORT TO DEFEAT THE NY SAFE ACT ON JUDICIAL APPEAL**  
**Alex Hillis, Legislative Committee Chair**

The Owlkill Rod & Gun Club, registered member organization of both the NRA and New York State Rifle and Pistol Association (NYSR&PA), is putting together a collective member donation to NYSR&PA in support of the current legal action against the SAFE Act. Every dollar collected from our membership up to and including our January club meeting will be consolidated by our treasurer, Randy Burgoyne, into one check to be sent to NYSR&PA headquarters in Albany. We presently have seed money of \$100 and hope to send out at least \$1000 to start the New Year off on an encouraging note for NYSR&PA president, Tom King. Please support this important effort!

We’re going to collect one last time from anyone interested at the next meeting and send our club donation in to NYSRPA. See Randy Burgoyne at the next meeting to make a donation!

**Editor’s note:** I’m opening up a new feature, thanks to Gary Danforth – each month we’ll include a hunting story – if you like to tell stories, Gary likes to write them. Reach out to him at [jetsfan730@verizon.net](mailto:jetsfan730@verizon.net)

**“THE BIG HUNT”**  
By Gary Danforth  
As told to me by Doug Willbrant

Preface: These monthly hunting stories are written by Gary Danforth as a means to keep the memory of his late brother, Richard "Dick" Danforth, alive. Dick loved the woods, hunting and planning hunts. He hunted for over 55 years using bow, rifle and muzzleloader. To keep these stories going and to keep the memory of my brother alive, I will need the help of others. I will need folks to furnish me with information and stories of their own to share. Thanks to my brother-in-law, Doug Willbrant, who hunted many years with my brother Dick, for helping me get the ball rolling with this initial story. I hope you enjoy the story and continued healthy hunting.

Story One: I spoke with Doug Willbrant at his home in North Petersburg. His family and himself own a large portion of woods and timber in that area, often called by us non owners in the family as Willbrant Mountain. Like most anyone whom I ever interviewed, and there have been many, having written for thirty years and published three books, the more I spoke with Doug, the more his memory came alive. First, he didn't think he could remember much, but as a few minutes went by, he found himself remembering more about Dick and his exploits. He shared several tidbits.

First, he recalled one hunt when he and Dick were on the mountain. "He used a 12 gauge shotgun with slugs this one day. He was sitting on a ledge under some pines when a spike horn came up through. I heard the shot. He hit the deer in the rib cage. What a mess that made. He said the deer got up and ran about five yards. There was a path of blood in the snow. That was about fifteen years ago."

Next, he shared a story about a hunt on the McCauliffe property between Eagle Bridge and Cambridge. Doug said that often Dick would hunt both the Willbrant Mountain and the McCauliffe property during any given hunting season. "If he didn't see much on the mountain he'd go up to McCauliffe's the next day to see what was up there. This one year he used a .45/70 to get a six pointer. I think Bill Grennen(a lifelong friend) got a six pointer the same day."

Then, Doug told me about the hunting camp which he and Dick and two others originally built in the early 1980's on Willbrant Mountain. The camp is located about eight tenths of a mile up the mountain. I can tell you from personal experience that the four wheeler ride up to the camp is steep; Very steep in some places. "Myself, Dick, Kurt Senecal and Mike Bornt built a 7 foot by 14 foot camp and hauled it up the mountain on a hay wagon. We (Willbrants ran the family farm since 1955). We couldn't get the camp up the mountain so we put another tractor behind the camp and pushed it up the mountain. Two years later we added on another 7 foot by 14 foot addition. It was crowded the first couple of years with four of us at the camp so we added on the addition. Then, Then, Dick got the idea 4-5 years later to add on another 16 foot by 24 foot section. We have a gas powered refrigerator and two wood stoves for heat. One wood stove keeps the camp plenty warm. At any one time ten to twelve people hunt at the camp.'

**Board of Directors:** Board of Directors meeting will take place at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular membership meeting on February 12th.

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\*\*\* Got something you want to contribute to the newsletter? Better yet – are you willing to step up and edit this monthly communication? Let me know, I always appreciate someone who is ready to grab on to an opportunity to excel and help the club.

Lance Allen Wang  
President and acting newsletter editor